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Page: 1

Case Number: S199900030

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 05957 01 OF 09 241451Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02
	CIAE-00	EB-00	H-01	MSC-01	IO-19	NSCE-00	NSAE-00
	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00
	ACDA-12	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	SSE-01	PRS-01
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P 241354Z AUG 88
 FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 TO, SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7870
 INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
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 AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
 AMEMBASSY QUITO
 AMEMBASSY PARIS
 AMEMBASSY ROME
 AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
 USCINCLANT NORFOLK
 SECDEF WASHDC

File No: S199900030
 Department of State
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 09 SANTIAGO 05957

E.O. 12356: DEC: OADR
 TAGS: PGOV, SCOM, CI
 SUBJECT: THE CHILEAN PLEBISCITE: SITREP THREE
 (AUGUST 13 - AUGUST 20)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 SANTIA 05957 01 OF 09 241451Z

n/a
CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 1

CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 2

n/a

Case Number: S199900030

1. (U) THIS IS THE THIRD IN A SERIES OF WEEKLY SITREPS REPORTING DEVELOPMENTS RELEVANT TO THE UPCOMING CHILEAN PLEBISCITE WHICH WILL APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE AN EIGHT YEAR TERM FOR AN AS YET UNIDENTIFIED GOVERNMENT CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT. THE CANDIDATE -- CURRENT PRESIDENT AUGUSTO PINOCHET IS THE HEAVY FAVORITE -- IS TO BE SELECTED AUGUST 30 AND THE PLEBISCITE IS GENERALLY EXPECTED TO BE HELD ON OCTOBER 5.

2. (C) SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS: ADDING A NEEDED ELEMENT TO THE PRE-PLEBISCITE POLITICAL DEBATE, THE GOC SENT A DRAFT OF THE LONG AWAITED CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS LAW TO THE JUNTA FOR STUDY. THIS IS THE FINAL PIECE OF MAJOR LEGISLATION TO GOVERN CHILE'S NEW POLITICAL ORDER. THE DRAFT CALLS FOR A "WINNER-TAKE-ALL" SYSTEM OF ELECTING TWO REPRESENTATIVES IN EACH OF 60 LOWER HOUSE AND 13 SENATE DISTRICTS INSTEAD OF THE TRADITIONAL PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION SYSTEM. PINOCHET FORCES CALCULATE THAT THE NEW SYSTEM WILL WORK TO THEIR BENEFIT AT THE EXPENSE OF SMALLER PARTIES. PDC LEADER PATRICIO AYLWIN CORRECTLY NOTED THAT THE SYSTEM COULD GUARANTEE HIS PARTY HALF OF THE SEATS BUT DECRIED THE FORMULA AS POLARIZING AND DESTRUCTIVE OF CHILE'S RICH HISTORY OF PLURALISTIC POLITICS. THE DRAFT ELECTORAL LAW AND THE OPPOSITION'S SUPPORT FOR THE BISHOPS AUGUST 11 CALL FOR A CONSENSUS ADDED WEIGHT TO THE MULTI-PARTY NO CAMPAIGN'S CLAIM THAT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 03 SANTIA 05957 01 OF 09 241451Z

PINOCHET AND THE SI CAMPAIGN ARE POLARIZING CHILE. THE NO CAMPAIGN CONTINUES TO PAINT ITSELF AS THE PARTY OF FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY AND TO CHARACTERIZE THE SI BLOC AS THE FORCES OF CONFRONTATION, DIVISIVENESS, AND HATE.

3. (C) THE CENSURING AND EXPULSION OF

CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 2

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
n/a

Case Number: S199900030

PATRICIO PHILLIPS AS PRESIDENT OF THE CONSERVATIVE NATIONAL PARTY (PN) ON AUGUST 17 PROVOKED FISTFIGHTS THE FOLLOWING DAY BETWEEN PHILLIPS' COHORTS FOR THE SI AND NEWLY-NAMED ACTING PRESIDENT GERMAN RIESCO WHO SUPPORTS THE NO. ON AUGUST 19, THE PN SUPREME TRIBUNAL RATIFIED PHILLIPS AS PRESIDENT AND ORDERED REISCO TO PUBLICLY RECOGNIZE HIM AS PARTY LEADER. SPLITTING AND NEUTRALIZING THE PN HAS BEEN A MAJOR OBJECTION OF PINOCHET FORCES WHOSE AIM IS TO KEEP THE OLDEST SURVIVING CONSERVATIVE PARTY OUT OF THE NO RANKS AND TO DENY THE OPPOSITION THE OPPORTUNITY TO FOLD IN A COUNTERWEIGHT TO ITS LEFT AND CENTER-LEFT MEMBERS.

4. (C) PRESIDENT PINOCHET, MEANWHILE CONTINUES HIS EFFORTS TO PROJECT A POPULIST IMAGE BY MEETING WITH GROUPS OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND MINORITIES. HOWEVER, SMALL PROTEST RALLIES BY YOUTHS, A DOZEN BLACKOUTS IN HIS HOTEL IN PUNTA ARENAS AND CANCELLATION OF EVENTS IN THE CONCEPCION AREA BECAUSE OF A BOUT WITH

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 05957 02 OF 09 241452Z

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
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CONFIDENTIAL

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Case Number: S199900030

ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02
	CIAE-00	EB-00	H-01	MSC-01	IO-19	NSCE-00	NSAE-00
	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00
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P 241354Z AUG 88
 FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7871
 INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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 USCINCLANT NORFOLK
 SECDEF WASHDC

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 02 OF 09 SANTIAGO 05957

E.O. 12356: DEC: OADR
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 SUBJECT: THE CHILEAN PLEBISCITE: SITREP THREE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 SANTIA 05957 02 OF 09 241452Z

THE FLU MARRED HIS ELECTORAL PROGRESSION. THE
 WEEK ALSO GAVE NEW EVIDENCE THAT PRO-PINOCHET
 FORCES WILL BEND THE RULES TO THEIR ADVANTAGE.

n/a

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 5

n/a

Case Number: S199900030

THE NATIONAL TELEVISION COUNCIL'S DECISION TO DESIGNATE THE 10:45 TO 11:15 PM TIME SLOT FOR THE 30-MINUTES OF POLITICAL ADVERTISING ALLOWED BY LAW HAS DISMAYED NO SUPPORTERS. THE LATE HOUR WILL MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE NO CAMPAIGNERS TO GET THEIR MESSAGE ACROSS PARTICULARLY TO EARLY-RISERS IN THE RURAL AREAS WHERE THE PINOCHET VOTE IS STRONGEST. THE GOVERNMENT TELEVISION CHANNEL IS GIVING SOMEWHAT MORE SPACE THAN NORMAL TO OPPOSITION FIGURES, BUT IS ALERT TO OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEGATIVE COVERAGE SUCH AS THE PN SQUABBLE.

5. (C) NO CAMPAIGNERS VIEW THE SUPREME COURT'S SENTENCING OF LABOR LEADER MANUEL BUSTOS AND OTHER CNT OFFICERS TO "INTERNAL EXILE" OR JAIL, AND THE DETENTION OF PDC YOUTH PRESIDENT FELIPE SANDOVAL ON CHARGES HE LIBELED THE ARMED FORCES, AS EVIDENCE THAT THE HARD-BALL PHASE OF THE CAMPAIGN IS GETTING UNDERWAY. THE ABILITY OF THE PINOCHET FORCES TO INTIMIDATE AND DEMORALIZE THE OPPOSITION ADHERENTS REMAINS STRONG. END SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.

RULES OF THE GAME

6. (U) ON AUGUST 13 INTERIOR MINISTER SERGIO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 03 SANTIA 05957 02 OF 09 241452Z

FERNANDEZ ANNOUNCED THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WAS SENDING TO THE JUNTA A DRAFT ELECTIONS SYSTEMS LAW CREATING 60 DISTRICTS, EACH OF WHICH WOULD ELECT TWO REPRESENTATIVES ON A WINNER-TAKE-ALL BASIS TO THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES. TWO SENATORS WOULD ALSO BE ELECTED FROM THE TOP VOTE GETTING SLATES IN EACH OF THE 13 GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS IN THE COUNTRY. GOC SPOKESMEN SAY THE DRAFT BILL, WHICH HAS BEEN UNDER CONSIDERATION SINCE 1985, IS DESIGNED TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF UNREPRESENTATIVE PARTIES THAT WOULD BE

n/a
CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 5

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
n/a

Case Number: S199900030

ENCOURAGED BY A PROPORTIONAL VOTING SYSTEM. IT WAS CRITICIZED BY OPPOSITION LEADERS AS AN EFFORT TO FORCE CHILE INTO A BIPARTITE SYSTEM WHICH GOES AGAINST ITS HISTORICAL TRADITIONS, BASED ON A CALCULATION THAT THE GOC COULD WIN HALF THE SEATS. PATRICIO AYLWIN ASSERTED THAT THE PDC AS THE "FIRST POLITICAL PARTY OF CHILE" WOULD EASILY WIN HALF THE SEATS BUT SAID SUCH A PLAN IGNORES THE RICH PLURALISM OF THE POLITICAL LANDSCAPE.

7. (C) SOURCES IN THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH INFORM US THAT THE ELECTORAL DISTRICT LEGISLATION WILL BE DELAYED IN THE JUNTA AT LEAST UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR, SINCE IT IS HIGHLY CONTROVERSIAL. ONE QUESTION IS WHY THE GOVERNMENT WOULD START THE PROCESS ROLLING NOW ON A BILL WHICH COULD UPSET MANY MODERATE CONSERVATIVES, WHO FEAR THE TRADITIONAL RIGHT BEING SQUEEZED OUT OF ANY REPRESENTATION IN MANY REGIONS. SOME SPECULATE THAT THE JUNTA COULD USE THE LEGISLATION AS A BARGAINING CHIP IN CASE THE NO WINS.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 05957 03 OF 09 241452Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO LOG-00 ADS-00 AID-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00 OIC-02

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 7

n/a

Case Number: S199900030

CIAE-00	EB-00	H-01	MSC-01	IO-19	NSCE-00	NSAE-00
HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00
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P 241354Z AUG 88
 FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7872
 INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
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 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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 AMEMBASSY ROME
 AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
 USCINCLANT NORFOLK
 SECDEF WASHDC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 03 OF 09 SANTIAGO 05957

E.O. 12356: DEC: OADR
 TAGS: PGOV, SCOM, CI
 SUBJECT: THE CHILEAN PLEBISCITE: SITREP THREE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 SANTIA 05957 03 OF 09 241452Z

8. (U) A TOTAL OF TWELVE POLITICAL PARTIES HAVE NOW BEEN RECOGNIZED UNDER THE GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE POLITICAL PARTIES LAW, BUT ONLY EIGHT OF THEM WILL QUALIFY TO HAVE OFFICIAL POLLWATCHERS IN THE EVENT OF AN OCTOBER 5 PLEBISCITE. THOSE ARE NATIONAL RENEWAL, THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS, PARTY FOR

CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 7

Case Number: S199900030

DEMOCRACY, HUMANISTS AND NATIONAL ADVANCE (ALL LEGALIZED AS NATIONAL PARTIES); AND THE NATIONALS, RADICAL DEMOCRACY, AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (REGIONAL PARTIES). FIVE ARE OPPOSITION, TWO ARE PRO-GOVERNMENT, AND ONE (THE PN) IS INDEPENDENT BUT LEANING TOWARD THE NO.

9. (U) THE NATIONAL ELECTION SERVICE (SEN) ANNOUNCED THAT JULY WAS A RECORD-BREAKING MONTH FOR VOTER ENROLLMENT. 555,711 PERSONS SHOWED UP TO REGISTER, BRINGING VOTER INSCRIPTION TO 6,96, 869. BY EARLY AUGUST IT WAS WELL OVER 7 MILLION, AND SEN OFFICIALS ARE PROJECTING THAT UPWARDS OF 7.4 MILLION OR 92 PERCENT OF THE ELECTORATE WILL BE SIGNED UP TO VOTE BY THE TIME REGISTRATION IS EXPECTED TO CLOSE IN THE FIRST DAYS OF SEPTEMBER. ACCORDING TO OUR CALCULATIONS THE PREVIOUS HIGH WAS IN THE 1964 ELECTIONS WHEN 87 PERCENT OF THOSE ELIGIBLE REGISTERED.

10. (C) TALKS WITH AMERICAN CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES WHO ARE WORKING IN POOR NEIGHBORHOODS AROUND SANTIAGO REVEAL THAT MOST SHANTYTOWN RESIDENTS ARE VERY INTERESTED IN THE PLEBISCITE, BUT DOUBTFUL ABOUT THE SECRECY OF THE VOTE. THEY FEAR THEY WILL SEE A REPETITION OF THE FRAUD AND INTIMIDATION THAT OCCURRED IN THE 1978 AND

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 03 SANTIA 05957 03 OF 09 241452Z

1980 PLEBISCITES. THEY ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE REQUIREMENT (WHICH IS TRADITIONAL IN CHILEAN ELECTIONS) THAT THEIR THUMB PRINT MUST BE TAKEN WHEN THEY SHOW UP TO VOTE. MANY ARE TALKING OF TAKING THEIR OWN PENCILS AND WEARING GLOVES, IN ORDER NOT TO LEAVE A FINGERPRINT ON THE BALLOT. THE FACT THAT 47 PERCENT OF THE ELECTORATE HAS NOT HAD THE CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY NORMAL ELECTION DUE TO THE POLITICAL RECESS MAKES POTENTIAL VOTERS MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO DISINFORMATION AIMED EITHER AT PROVING "FRAUD" OR AT PRESSURING THEM TO VOTE AS THE AUTHORITIES WISH.

n/a

CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 8

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 9

n/a

Case Number: S199900030

INDEPENDENTS

11. (C) THE BISHOPS' AUGUST 11 APPEAL TO THE JUNTA TO NAME A CONSENSUS CANDIDATE HAS STRUCK A CHORD WITH MANY CHILEANS, EVEN THOUGH IT HAS NOT HALTED THE SEEMINGLY INEXORABLE MARCH TOWARD A PINOCHET NOMINATION. SOURCES CLOSE TO THE CHURCH HIERARCHY INFORM US THE STATEMENT WAS STIMULATED BY CONCERNS OVER GOC PRESSURE TACTICS EXPRESSED BY JUNTA MEMBERS STANGE AND MATTHEI TO CARDINAL FRESNO (SEE SANTIAGO 5850 FOR ANALYSIS). THEY VIEW THE MASSIVE TURNOUT TO THE MARIAN PROCESSION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 01 SANTIAGO 05957 04 OF 09 241453Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02
	CIAE-00	EB-00	H-01	MSC-01	IO-19	NSCE-00	NSAE-00
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	ACDA-12	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	SSE-01	PRS-01

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 9

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

n/a
Case Number: S199900030

P-02 T-01 /078 W -----234377 241515Z /46

P 241354Z AUG 88
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7873
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
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AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
USCINCLANT NORFOLK
SECDEF WASHDC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ L SECTION 04 OF 09 SANTIAGO 05957

E.O. 12356: DEC: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, SCOM, CI
SUBJECT: THE CHILEAN PLEBISCITE: SITREP THREE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 SANTIA 05957 04 OF 09 241453Z

ON AUGUST 15 IN MAIPU AS A VINDICATION OF THE BISHOPS' BOLD ACTION IN PRESSING FOR A POLITICAL OPENING. IN RESPONSE TO THE STATEMENT, THE PARTY FOR DEMOCRACY (PPD) IN ITS FIRST NATIONAL CONGRESS CALLED FOR A COALITION CANDIDATE FOR A "GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY" FOLLOWING A NO VICTORY IN THE PLEBISCITE (SANTIAGO 5779) PPD PRESIDENT RICARDO LAGOS IS WORKING ON LAST-MINUTE EFFORTS TO GET

n/a
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 11

n/a

Case Number: S199900030

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADERS TO AGREE ON A SHADOW CANDIDACY FOR EDUARDO FREI AND TO PERSONIFY THE "NO".

12. (U) ON AUGUST 18, THE INDEPENDENTS FOR DEMOCRACY COMPOSED OF PROMINENT AND INFLUENTIAL FIGURES, MANY OF WHOM ARE FORMER OFFICIALS OF THE GOVERNMENT, RELEASED A STATEMENT SAYING THAT PINOCHET COULD NOT BE CONSIDERED A CANDIDATE OF "NATIONAL CONSENSUS AND UNITY". THEY SAID THAT IF HE WERE NAMED, THEY WOULD VOTE "NO" IN ORDER TO CLEAR THE WAY FOR AN OPEN, COMPETITIVE ELECTION TO CONSTRUCT THE DEMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE CHILEANS EXPECT AND NEED. THE MOVEMENT, WHICH IS HEADED BY BUSINESSMAN (AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF SOFOFA, THE NATIONAL CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY) ORLANDO SAENZ, ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE LACK OF BASIC FREEDOMS AND EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY THAT ARE REQUIRED FOR A LEGITIMATE ELECTION.

(C) SAENZ TOLD VISITING INR OFFICERS KAPLAN AND BUCHANAN AUGUST 2 THAT HIS GROUP IS COLLECTING SIGNATURES ON A LETTER TO THE JUNTA, URGING THEM TO IMPLEMENT THE BISHOPS' APPEAL AND NOMINATE A CONSENSUS CANDIDATE. RATHER THAN PUSHING A SPECIFIC

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SANTIA 05957 04 OF 09 241453Z

NAME, HOWEVER, THE LETTER WILL EXPRESS CONFIDENCE IN THE JUNTA'S ABILITY TO SELECT A CANDIDATE OF WIDE APPEAL. ACCORDING TO SAENZ, THE LETTER WILL BE SIGNED BY A NUMBER OF THOSE OFTEN MENTIONED AS POSSIBLE CONSENSUS CANDIDATES, SUCH AS J.M. BARROS, CARLOS MARTINEZ, AND FRANCISCO BULNES, AND BY FOUR RETIRED GENERALS. WHILE NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT THE COMMANDERS IN CHIEF WILL GET UP THE COURAGE TO DENY THE NOMINATION TO PINOCHET, SAENZ AND HIS GROUP HOPE AT LEAST TO INCREASE THE PRESSURE ON THEM AND MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO SAY THEY HAD NO ALTERNATIVE.

13. (U) ON AUGUST 17 THE POLITICAL COMMISSION OF THE CONSERVATIVE NATIONAL PARTY VOTED TO CENSURE PATRICIO PHILLIPS AND REMOVE HIM FROM THE PRESIDENCY ON THE

n/a

CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 11

CONFIDENTIAL

Case Number: S199900030

GROUNDS THAT HE WAS ORGANIZING SUPPORT FOR A SI VOTE (SEE SEPTEL). FISTFIGHTS BROKE OUT ON THE FOLLOWING DAY AS SI SUPPORTERS (WHO INCLUDED YOUTHS IDENTIFIED WITH THE "UDI FOR THE SI") TRIED TO BLOCK GERMAN RIESCO, WHO WAS NAMED AS ACTING PRESIDENT, FROM ENTERING THE PARTY HEADQUARTERS. THE PRO-PINOCHET GROUPS EVENTUALLY TOOK OVER THE PARTY HEADQUARTERS. THE TURMOIL FOLLOWED TWO MONTHS OF CHARGES AND COUNTER CHARGES OVER GOC FINANCING INFILTRATORS AIMED AT CAPTURING THE YOUTH BRANCH, CHANGING THE MAKEUP OF THE 300-MEMBER GENERAL COUNCIL, AND BLOCKING THE PARTY FROM EVENTUAL SUPPORT FOR THE NO.

14. (C) COMMENT: THE SPLITTING OF CHILE'S OLDEST SURVIVING CONSERVATIVE PARTY IS REMINISCENCE OF THE WRECKAGE THAT RESULTED WHEN THE UDI FACTION ATTEMPTED TO TAKE CONTROL OF PN'S RIVAL, NATIONAL RENEWAL,

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 05957 05 OF 09 241454Z
 ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02
	CIAE-00	EB-00	H-01	MSC-01	IO-19	NSCE-00	NSAE-00
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-----234414 241516Z /46
 P 241354Z AUG 88

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 13

n/a

Case Number: S199900030

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7874
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
USCINCLANT NORFOLK
SECDEF WASHDC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ L SECTION 05 OF 09 SANTIAGO 05957

E.O. 12356: DEC: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, SCOM, CI
SUBJECT: THE CHILEAN PLEBISCITE: SITREP THREE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 SANTIA 05957 05 OF 09 241454Z

IN EARLY 1988. IT INDICATES THE LENGTHS TO WHICH PRO-PINOCHET FORCES ARE WILLING TO GO TO WIN POWER. WHOEVER COMES OUT ON TOP IN THE NATIONALS IS LIKELY TO HAVE A SHELL OF A PARTY. BUT THE PN HAS A NAME BRAND THAT REPRESENTS RESPONSIBLE CONSERVATISM TO MANY UNDECIDED VOTERS, AND THEIR JOINING THE NO CAUSE WOULD MAKE IT HARD FOR THE GOC TO ARGUE THAT THE OPPOSITION CAMPAIGN IS MARXIST-INSPIRED. END COMMENT.

n/a
CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 13

CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 14

n/a

Case Number: S199900030

THE NO CAMPAIGN

15. (C) PDC YOUTH PRESIDENT FELIPE SANDOVAL HAS BEEN DETAINED FOR FIVE DAYS ON CHARGES THAT HE COMMITTED LIBEL DURING A NATIONAL TELEVISION PROGRAM IN WHICH HE MENTIONED POLICE INVOLVEMENT IN THE MURDER OF THREE LEFTISTS IN 1985. NO CAMPAIGN LEADERS BELIEVE THE ARREST, ALONG WITH THE SENTENCE OF INTERNAL EXILE AGAINST LABOR LEADERS MANUEL BUSTOS AND ARTURO MARTINEZ (SEPTEL), IS THE START OF A HARDLINE GOC CAMPAIGN, USING INTIMIDATION AND STRONG-ARM TACTICS TO MAKE UP LOST GROUND FOR PINOCHET. THE GOC IS CONTINUING TO PREVENT THEM FROM ORGANIZING LARGE GATHERINGS DESIGNED TO SHOW THEIR POPULAR SUPPORT IN THE SANTIAGO AREA. REPEATED REQUESTS TO USE THE NATIONAL STADIUM HAVE BEEN DENIED, ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT PINOCHET FREQUENTLY USES THIS FACILITY TO BRING TOGETHER THE FAITHFUL.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 03 SANTIA 05957 05 OF 09 241454Z

SIMILARLY, NO CAMPAIGN LEADERS IN CONCEPCION TELLUS THAT AFTER RENTING A THEATRE FOR A LARGE GATHERING GOVERNMENT FORCES PRESSURED THE OWNER INTO BREAKING THE CONTRACT.

ON AUGUST 22 THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS DENYING THE NO CAMPAIGN A REQUEST FOR A PERMIT TO HOLD A RALLY ON SEPTEMBER 4 IN THE PLAZA ITALIA, IN DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO, AND OFFERED INSTEAD THE LA BANDERA PARK ON AMERICO VESPUCIO AVENUE, ON THE CITY'S OUTSKIRTS. NO LEADERS SAID THAT WAS UNACCEPTABLE.

THE NO CAMPAIGN HELD A LARGE AND PEACEFUL YOUTH RALLY, WITH GOVERNMENT PERMISSION, IN SANTIAGO ON AUGUST 20. CAMPAIGN LEADERS WERE PLEASED BOTH BY THE TURNOUT AND BY THEIR SUCCESS IN PREVENTING ANY DISTURBANCE OR VIOLENCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE RALLY.

n/a

CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 14

CONFIDENTIAL

n/a

Case Number: S199900030

16. (C) THE NO CAMBAND IS PLANNING A MARCH FROM SEPTEMBER 20 TO OCTOBER 2 IN WHICH GROUPS MOVING IN MARATHON FASHION FROM THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN TIPS OF THE COUNTRY WILL CONVERGE ON SANTIAGO. THE LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS WILL BE CONSIDERABLE, SINCE PUBLIC GATHERINGS, MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES AND HOUSING MUST BE ARRANGED TOWN BY TOWN FOR THE MARCHERS. ORGANIZERS FEEL THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR VIOLENCE WILL BE MINIMAL, SINCE THE NUMBER MARCHING WILL BE SMALL AND THE "MYSTIQUE" THEY GENERATE WILL CONSTITUTE A FORM OF PROTECTION. THIS MAY BE A QUIXOTIC ATTITUDE,

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 01 SANTIA 05957 06 OF 09 241455Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02
	CIAE-00	EB-00	H-01	MSC-01	IO-19	NSCE-00	NSAE-00
	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00
	ACDA-12	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	SSE-01	PRS-01
	P-02	T-01	/078 W				

-----234442 241516Z /46

P 241354Z AUG 88
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7875
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

n/a
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 16

Case Number: S199900030

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
USCINCLANT NORFOLK
SECDEF WASHDC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 06 OF 09 SANTIAGO 05957

E.O. 12356: DEC: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, SCOM, CI
SUBJECT: THE CHILEAN PLEBISCITE: SITREP THREE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 SANTIAGO 05957 06 OF 09 241455Z

"MYSTIQUE" IS NOT APT TO DETER PROVOCATEURS.

17. (U) MORE THAN ANY OTHER OPPOSITION LEADER, RICARDO LAGOS IS ATTRACTING LARGE CROWDS IN THE PROVINCES. SPEAKING TO 700 CAMPESINOS IN MOLINA (NEAR TALCA) THIS WEEK, HE SAID THE SI CAMPAIGN WAS COMPOSED OF "PARROTS WHO DARED NOT SHOW THEIR FACE" AND CHALLENGED PINOCHET TO COME OUT OF THE SHADOWS AND DEBATE HIM.

18. (C) THE COMMUNIST PARTY REITERATED ITS CALL TO DEFEAT PINOCHET THROUGH ALL-OUT PARTICIPATION IN THE PLEBISCITE, WHILE THE PC YOUTH WING ENCOURAGED ALL ITS FOLLOWERS TO REGISTER EN MASSE, JOIN LOCAL NO COMMANDS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Page: 16

CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 17

Case Number: S199900030

AND DOOR-TO-DOOR CAMPAIGNS IN AN EFFORT TO WIN THE ELECTION. PC SUPPORT HAS STILL NOT SURFACED AS A MAJOR ISSUE IN THE CAMPAIGN, BUT IT HAS BEEN A DIVISIVE ISSUE IN MANY COMMUNITIES WHERE MODERATE OPPOSITION LEADERS HAVE TRIED TO DISCOURAGE THE PC FROM BECOMING PART OF NO COMMITTEES, YOUTH AND LABOR FRONTS.

19. (U) IN ITS PUBLICITY THE NO CAMPAIGN CONTINUES TO USE COLORS AND VISUAL AIDS IDENTIFYING ITSELF WITH FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY AND IDENTIFYING THE SI WITH CONFRONTATION, HATRED AND AGGRESSION. A RECENT AD SHOWS SI FANS RIPPING UP PDC FLAGS AND SHAKING THEIR FISTS IN A CAR CARAVAN. THE GOC COUNTERED THIS WITH A RAINBOW (THE NO LOGO) SMEARED WITH BLACK INK AND A MESSAGE SAYING THAT "THE SAME FAILED GENERATION OF POLITICIANS WHICH YESTERDAY OFFERED REVOLUTIONS IN LIBERTY WITH RED WINE AND EMPANADAS TODAY TRY TO HIDE
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 03 SANTIA 05957 06 OF 09 241455Z

THE FACT THAT ITS NO CAN ONLY GENERATE VIOLENCE, ANARCHY, INFLATION, AND BLACK MARKETS."

THE SI CAMPAIGN

20. (U) PINOCHET HAS STRESSED HIS POPULIST IMAGE BY CONTINUING TO MEET WITH GROUPS OF WOMEN, YOUTH AND MINORITIES. ON AUGUST 17 HE BROUGHT A FEW THOUSAND WOMEN TO THEIR FEET IN A GATHERING IN SANTIAGO'S NATIONAL STADIUM ORGANIZED BY THE FIRST LADY'S "WOMEN FOR CHILE." HE WAS ALSO SEEN SHAKING HANDS WITH SCHOOL TEACHERS AND MEETING WITH INDIGENOUS CHILEANS ORGANIZED BY THE MAPUCHE CIVIC FRONT. HOWEVER ANOTHER GROUP OF MAPUCHES NEAR TEMUCO PROTESTED THE GOC'S USE OF ONE OF THEIR RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS FOR ELECTIONEERING PURPOSES.

21. (U) LA MONEDA-WATCHERS PREDICT THAT SHORTLY AFTER HE IS NOMINATED, PINOCHET WILL PUT A MODERATE FACE ON THE CAMPAIGN BY ANNOUNCING THE END OF EXILE

CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 17

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CONFIDENTIAL
n/a

Case Number: S199900030

AND THE STATES OF EXCEPTION. THE NOMINATION WILL BE CELEBRATED WITH A MASSIVE FIREWORKS DISPLAY. TO COMMEMORATE THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE COUP ON SEPTEMBER 11, HE IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE HIS PROGRAM FOR GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO QUE PASA MAGAZINE, HE IS CONSIDERING MOVING UP THE DATE FOR CONGRESSIONAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 01 SANTIA 05957 07 OF 09 241456Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02
	CIAE-00	EB-00	H-01	MSC-01	IO-19	NSCE-00	NSAE-00
	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00
	ACDA-12	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	SSE-01	PRS-01
	P-02	T-01	/078 W				

-----234527 241517Z /46

P 241354Z AUG 88
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7876
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CONFIDENTIAL
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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
n/a

Page: 19

Case Number: S199900030

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
USCINCLANT NORFOLK
SECDEF WASHDC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ L SECTION 07 OF 09 SANTIAGO 05957

E.O. 12356: DEC: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, SCOM, CI
SUBJECT: THE CHILEAN PLEBISCITE: SITREP THREE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 SANTIA 05957 07 OF 09 241456Z

ELECTIONS, NOW SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 14,
1989, IN ORDER TO DISTRACT ATTENTION FROM THE
PLEBISCITE.

22. (U) A VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT TO PUNTA ARENAS WAS
MARRIED BY A DOZEN ELECTRICAL BLACKOUTS IN THE HOTEL
IN WHICH HE WAS LODGED. YOUTHS STAGED SMALL RALLIES
THROUGHOUT THE DOWNTOWN SECTION OF THE SOUTHERN CITY
TO PROTEST HIS PRESENCE. SOME 91 PEOPLE WERE
DETAINED, AND ALL BUT ONE WERE RELEASED WITHOUT
CHARGES. PINOCHET'S TOUR TO CONCEPCION AND THE
MINING CITY OF LOTA WAS CANCELLED AT THE LAST MINUTE,
REPORTEDLY DUE TO AN ATTACK OF THE FLU.

' "THE ARMED FORCES

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
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Page: 19

CONFIDENTIAL
n/a

Case Number: S199900030

23. (U) SENIOR MEMBER OF THE MILITARY JUNTA ADMIRAL MERINO STATED TO THE PRESS THIS WEEK THAT IF THE NO WINS HE WILL NOT NEGOTIATE ON ANYTHING CONTAINED IN THE CONSTITUTION OF 1980. NO FORCES HOLD OUT HOPE THAT AFTER THEIR VICTORY IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO NEGOTIATE WITH ARMED FORCES COMMANDERS FOR CHANGES IN THE MOST OBJECTIONABLE SECTIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION, PARTICULARLY CNEROUS PROVISIONS FOR AMENDING IT. MERINO SEEMS TO BE FORECLOSING ANY SUCH OPTION.

THE MEDIA

24. (U) ON AUGUST 19, IT WAS REPORTED BY THE PRESS THAT THE NATIONAL TELEVISION COUNCIL HAS ALLOTTED
CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 03 SANTIA 05957 07 OF 09 241456Z

10:45 P.M. TO 11:15 P.M., FOR THE 30 MINUTES OF POLITICAL ADVERTISING ALLOWED BY LAW. NO CAMPAIGN LEADERS HAVE PROTESTED THIS RULING, WHICH THEY JUDGE WILL MAKE IT HARD TO GET THEIR MESSAGE ACROSS IN RURAL AREAS WHERE THE PRO-PINOCHET VOTE IS EXPECTED TO BE STRONGTST, AND WHERE PEOPLE TEND TO GO TO BED EARLIER THAN IN THE CITIES.

GOVERNMENT TELEVISION CHANNEL 7 IS CONTINUING TO GIVE SOMEWHAT MORE NEWS SPACE TO THE OPPOSITION. WHILE THE MODERATE OPPOSITION APPEARS ALMOST NIGHTLY IN REASONABLY NEUTRAL STORIES, CHANNEL 7 ALSO IS ALERT TO OPPORTUNITIES FOR NEGATIVE COVERAGE. FOR EXAMPLE, ON AUGUST 16, THIRTY SECONDS WERE GIVEN A COMMUNIST PARTY STATEMENT ADVOCATING A "RUPTURE" WITH PRESENT POLITICAL AND SOCIAL STRUCTURES. ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 18, VIEWERS OF ALL CHANNELS WERE TREATED TO THOROUGH COVERAGE OF THE BREAKUP OF THE CONSERVATIVE "PARTIDO NACIONAL", COMPLETE WITH STREET FIGHTING.

MEANWHILE, VIEWERS OF ALL CHANNELS ALSO HAVE BEEN TREATED TO EVEN GREATER COVERAGE OF PRESIDENT PINOCHET. HIS ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN THE SUBJECT OF AS MANY AS FOUR DIFFERENT STORIES IN A SINGLE NEWSCAST. HOWEVER, "ASK PRESIDENT PINOCHET," THE GOC AD

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n/a

Case Number: S199900030

MENTIONED IN SITREP TWO IN WHICH PINOCHET ANSWERED
SELECTED WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC, WAS
DROPPED AFTER ONLY TWO OR THREE DAYS. IT APPARENTLY
WAS NOT CONSIDERED SUCCESSFUL. NONE OF THE OTHER
GOC ADS FEATURES PINOCHET, OR EVEN MENTIONS HIS NAME.
THEIR FOCUS IS ONE THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF "THE LAST
15 YEARS" - UNATTRIBUTED.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 01 SANTIA 05957 08 OF 09 241457Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02
	CIAE-00	EB-00	H-01	MSC-01	IO-19	NSCE-00	NSAE-00
	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00
	ACDA-12	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	SSE-01	PRS-01
	P-02	T-01	/078 W				

-----234530 241517Z /46

P 241354Z AUG 88
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7877
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Page: 22

n/a

Case Number: S199900030

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
USCINCLANT NORFOLK
SECDEF WASHDC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 08 OF 09 SANTIAGO 05957

E.O. 12356: DEC: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, SCOM, CI
SUBJECT: THE CHILEAN PLEBISCITE: SITREP THREE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 SANTIA 05957 08 OF 09 241457Z

25. (U) IN AN INTERAMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION (IAPA) COMMUNIQUE, EMILIO FILIPPI, DIRECTOR OF THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION DAILY "LA EPOCA" AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE IAPA PRESS FREEDOM COMMISSION, STATED THAT "THE ATTACK OF LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES - ARGENTINA, COLOMBIA, COSTA RICA, ECUADOR, URUGUAY AND VENEZUELA - ISSUED A JOINT DECLARATION THIS WEEK CALLING FOR A CHILEAN PLEBISCITE HELD UNDER CONDITIONS WHICH "GUARANTEE THE FREE EXPRESSION OF THE CITIZENRY AND FULL RECOGNITION OF (THE PLEBISCITE'S) RESULTS." THE STATEMENT ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THROUGH A "PEACEFUL PROCESS OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION" CHILE CAN BE REINTEGRATED INTO THE "DEMOCRATIC LATIN AMERICAN COMMUNITY OF NATIONS." REACTION TO THE STATEMENT HAS BEEN MEASURED BUT PREDICTABLE. PRO-GOVERNMENT VOICES SUCH AS SERGIO JARPA LAMENTED THE "FLAGRANT INSULT TO THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF (CHILEAN) SELF-DETERMINATION," WHILE JUNTA MEMBER GENERAL STANGE OBSERVED THAT THE STATEMENT HAS NO VALUE OR IMPORTANCE. THE OPPOSITION IS, HOWEVER, PLEASED TO HAVE LATIN AMERICAN VOICES

n/a

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Page: 22

CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 23

n/a

Case Number: S199900030

RAISED IN CONCERT CALLING FOR A RETURN TO DEMOCRACY
IN CHILE.

27. (U) A DELEGATION FROM THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL
MOVEMENT FOR FREE ELECTIONS (NAMFREL), HEADED BY
CATHOLIC BISHOP ANTONIO TOBIAS, MET WITH THE CHILEAN
FREE ELECTORAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMAND FOR THE "NO"
TO DISCUSS THE PHILIPPINE ELECTORAL EXPERIENCE AS IT
MIGHT APPLY TO CHILE. THE BISHOP NOTED THAT A RAPID
VOTE-COUNT WAS ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO AVOID FRAUD,
AND RECOUNTED SOME OF THE WAYS EX-PRESIDENT MARCOS
HAD ATTEMPTED TO STEAL THE ELECTION VIA FRAUD. HE

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 03 SANTIA 05957 08 OF 09 241457Z

ADDED THAT THE CHURCH CANNOT REFRAIN FROM PLAYING AN
ACTIVE ROLE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES THAT ALSO AFFECT
THE MORAL CONDITION OF A COUNTRY.

U.S. FUNDED GROUPS

28. (U) EDITORIAL ANDANTE, THE SMALL PUBLISHING
HOUSE SUPPORTED BY NED THROUGH A GRANT TO "FREEDOM
HOUSE", PUBLISHED ITS FOURTH IN A SERIES OF CITIZEN
MANUAL DESIGNED TO ASSIST ORDINARY CHILEAN CITIZENS
IN UNDERSTANDING THEIR ELECTORAL RIGHTS AND
RESPONSIBILITIES. "THE CHILEAN POLITICAL PARTIES"
LISTS THE EXECUTIVE MEMBERS, THE HISTORY AND

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CONFIDENTIAL

Page: 23

CONFIDENTIAL

Case Number: S199900030

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NNNN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 01 SANTIA 05957 09 OF 09 241457Z
ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	AID-00	INR-10	EUR-00	SS-00	OIC-02
	CIAE-00	EB-00	H-01	MSC-01	IO-19	NSCE-00	NSAE-00
	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01	INRE-00
	ACDA-12	USIE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01	SSE-01	PRS-01
	P-02	T-01	/078 W				

-----234531 241517Z /46

P 241354Z AUG 88
 FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7878
 INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
 AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
 AMEMBASSY BONN
 AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
 AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
 AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 AMEMBASSY CARACAS
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
 AMEMBASSY LIMA
 AMEMBASSY LONDON

n/a

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL
n/a

Case Number: S199900030

- AMEMBASSY MADRID
- AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
- AMEMBASSY QUITO
- AMEMBASSY PARIS
- AMEMBASSY ROME
- AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
- USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS
- USCINCLANT NORFOLK
- SECDEF WASHDC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECTION 09 OF 09 SANTIAGO 05957

E.O. 12356: DEC: OADR
 TAGS: PGOV, SCOM, CI
 SUBJECT: THE CHILEAN PLEBISCITE: SITREP THREE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE 02 SANTIA 05957 09 OF 09 241457Z

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF 19 PARTIES OF THE LEFT, CENTER AND RIGHT. AN EARLIER PUBLICATON, "INSTRUCTIONS FOR POLL WATCHERS" HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN USED BY ADHERENTS OF BOTH THE "SI" AND "NO" CAMPAIGNS AS A TRAINING TOOL.

29. (U) KEN WOLLACK, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF NDI AND A TEAM ARRIVED IN SANTIAGO ON AUGUST 17 TO PLAN FOR AN NDI-SPONSORED INTERNATIONAL OBSERVER DELEGATION FOR THE OCTOBER PLEBISCITE. THEY ANTICIPATE THERE WILL BE 45 OFFICIAL OBSERVERS (18 FROM LATIN AMERICA, 12-15 FROM THE U.S. AND THE REST FROM EUROPE) AS WELL AS 15 STAFF TO FORM 20 TEAMS TO COVER THE VOTE IN THE NORTH, THE SOUTH AND THE VALPARAISO-SANTIAGO AREA. WOLLACK HELD HIS INITIAL GOVERNMENTAL MEETING WITH CHIEF OF BILATERAL AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY JAIME LAGOS. HE ALSO MET WITH SEN DIRECTOR JUAN IGNACIO GARCIA.

30. (U) ALSO THIS WEEK, A SERIES OF NED FUNDED SEMINARS ON THE PEACEFUL DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION IN CHILE WERE CONDUCTED WITH POLITICAL SCIENTISTS, LABOR LEADERS AND OTHER GROUPS BY GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY AND THE INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL SCIENCE OF THE CATHOLIC

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CONFIDENTIAL
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Case Number: S199900030

UNIVERSITY OF CHILE.

BARNES

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